

History of Navy Psychology Timeline (FINAL)

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1869--George Miller Beard (1839-1883), a former Civil War Navy medical officer, coins the term “Neurasthenia” for “chronic mental fatigue.” Beard later authored the book *Neurasthenia: with remarks on treatment* (1879)

1907--University of Pennsylvania professor Lightner Witmer (1867-1956) coins the term “Clinical Psychology.”

1911--Navy Medical Officer Lt. Hebert Butts develops protocol for psychological screening of Navy recruits. ¹

21 April 1917--The American Psychological Association establishes committees to look at “various important aspects of the relations of psychology to war.” This is considered by many to be the beginning of military psychology.²³

1938--Dr. Richard Paynter, Vice President of the American Association of Applied Psychologists (AAAP) proposing mobilizing psychologists in the War and Navy Departments.⁴

July 1940--Medical Research Section of the Bureau of Aeronautics was established to “research the medical, physiological, and psychological effects of naval aviation.”⁵

October 1940--C.M. Louttit of Indiana University and secretary of AAAP becomes the first psychologist in the U.S Navy. Soon after the Navy establishes special branch in the Medical Corps for psychologists and other non-medical specialists. Louttit is appointed as a “hospital-volunteer specialist” or “H-V(S)” in the Naval Reserve.⁶

¹ Butts, Hebert. “The mental examination of candidates for enlistment in the Navy and Marine Corps.” *The Naval Medical Bulletin*, volume 5, 1911. pp29-38.

² Yerkes RM. “Psychology and National Service.” *Journal of Applied Psychology*, Volume 1. 1917. pp01-304. APA Committee included: “Psychological Literature Relating to Military Affairs,” “Psychological Examining of Recruits,” “Psychological Problems of Aviation, Including Examination of Aviation Recruits,” and “Problems of Emotional Stability, Fear and Self-Control.”

³ Kennedy, Carrie and Jeffrey McNeil. “History of Military Psychology.” *Military Psychology: Clinical and Operational Applications*. The Guilford Press: New York. 2006. p3

⁴ “Mobilizing Psychology for Defense Proposed; Use in World War Cited.” *The Hartford Courant*; Sep 6, 1938. Pg. 5.

⁵ Gray, David. *Many Specialties, One Corps. A Pictorial History of the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps*. 1997. p70.

⁶ Gray, David. “Research Psychology.” *Many Specialties, One Corps. A Pictorial History of the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps*. 1997. p177.

1941-1945--Psychologist Lt. Arthur Benton, H-V(S) begins early research on "neurological and behavioral consequences of brain wounds" at Naval Hospital San Diego, Calif.⁷

2 January 1941--Navy Surgeon General Vice Adm. Ross McIntire outlines the official duties of Navy clinical psychologists in "recruit screening."⁸

February 1941--Aviation Psychology Branch of Bureau of Aeronautics develops questionnaire of Student Aviators" by means of personnel test, and biographical inventory.

July 1941--Capt. John G. Jenkins takes command of aviation psychology program at Navy Bureau of Aeronautics. Under his leadership, the first aviation psychologists "administer, score and interpret tests for the selection of naval aviation cadets and later development of research projects, statistical analyses, methods for selecting flight instructors, development of training aids."

29 October 1942--Bureau of Medicine and Surgery established Aviation Psychology Section to "develop and administer tests for selection and classification of naval airmen." Early tests include the Aviation Classification Test.

1943--Psychological study at Naval Training Stations Great Lakes (Ill.), Newport (R.I.) and Sampson, N.Y. show that there is an inverse relationship between the number of Sailors discharged during training and the subsequent loss of manpower due to psychiatric discharge.⁹

1943--Over 130 Navy psychologists in uniform.¹⁰

1943--Lt. Cmdr. Dana Farnsworth, hospital ship medical officer, notes that "shower baths and ice cream proved [an] effective initial treatment for the first large group of American mental-breakdown casualties" of World War II.¹¹

23 June 1944--BUMED publishes *The NP Problem* a pamphlet describing the treatment and administration policy for mental illnesses in the Navy.

1945—By war's end over 500 Navy psychologists have served in uniform, including 50 women.¹²

⁷ "Navy Psychologist Recognized." *U.S. Navy Medicine Magazine*. Volume 70, May 1979.

⁸ "The clinical psychologists attached to the training station will examine those recruits where scoring on intelligence and achievement tests at recruiting stations and on entrance to the training stations have shown irregularities or discrepancies. He shall also examine recruits with instruments designed to indicate temperamental and emotional characteristics. By these means he will not only aid in the elimination of the unfit but also advise in the matter of selective placement." Source: McGuire, Frederick. *Psychology Aweigh!: A History of Clinical Psychology in the United States Navy, 1900-1988*. American Psychological Association: Washington, DC. 1990. p97.

⁹ Ibid. pp 100-101.

¹⁰ Gray. p177

¹¹ Erickson, Leif. "Shower Baths and Ice Cream Help War's Combat Fatigue Casualties." *The Sun*; May 23, 1943. p2.

1945--Navy produces training film "Combat Fatigue Irritability" starring and directed by Gene Kelly.

25 June 1946--Naval Medical Research Laboratory (NMRL) is established.

June 1947--Authorization for civilian psychologist positions at various Navy medical facilities.

4 August 1947--The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery drafts two bills to establish a corps of medical service specialists. The first bill authorized permanent commissioned grades in the Hospital Corps above the rank of chief warrant officer; the second created a medical allied scientist corps. Both bills were forwarded for consideration by the 80th Congress. The House Armed Services Committee examined both bills, along with a similar bill to establish a medical service corps in the U.S. Army. The Committee consolidated all three bills into the "Army-Navy Medical Service Corps Act of 1947." Enacted 4 August 1947, Public Law 80-337, this legislation created a Medical Service Corps in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army. The Navy Medical Service Corps consisted of four specialty sections: Supply and Administration, Optometry, Allied Sciences, and Pharmacy.

1948--James W. Bagby and Robert S. Herrmann become the first clinical psychologists in the Navy Medical Service Corps. Capt. Hermann later became the Chief of the Medical Service Corps.

1951--Neuropsychiatric Branch of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery develops screening procedures for the Naval Intelligence School. The screening program enabled School officials to study how "mental disorders might interfere with effective performance of any individual of officer rank and "what billet, from the personality and emotional stress demands aspects, a given candidate might be best suited."¹³

April 1951--Authorization for civilian psychologist positions at Marine Corps Recruit Depots.

1952--Publication of *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM I).

1953--Navy psychologists represent 2.3 percent of the Medical Service Corps. "Lt. Cmdr." is the senior most rank a psychologist can achieve.

¹² Gray. p177.

¹³ Source: Newhouser, Lloyd to Director of Officer of Naval Intelligence. Request for Performance criteria of Naval Intelligence School Officer graduates. December 28, 1953. BUMED Correspondence. Record Group 52. NARA II. 2123.

1955--Lt. Cmdr. (later Capt.) Jesse Harris becomes the first clinical psychologist assigned to the Naval Air Station Pensacola.

1959--Establishment of the Navy Medical Neuropsychiatric Research Unit in San Diego, Calif.

1960--The Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) Program is initiated. Program is designed to train military personnel to avoid capture if in enemy territory.

21 September 1960--There are 27 clinical psychologists and 23 experimental psychologists in the Navy.¹⁴

June 1961--Dr. Henry Imus, Navy civilian psychologist and Assistant Director of Research at the Naval School of Aviation, writes "Psychologic[al] Factors in Space Travel." In his article, Imus looks at the personality traits of astronauts, and issues of boredom and fatigue, isolation, sensory deprivation and morale in space travel.¹⁵

1962--Clinical psychologist Capt. Robert Herrmann is appointed Chief of the Medical Service Corps. He would serve in this role until 1968. Herrmann was the first MSC Chief who was not a health care administrator.

1 September 1962--Lt. (later Capt.) Paul Nelson presents paper on psychological and social aspects of life in the Antarctic. His paper, "Human Adaption to Antarctic Station Life" discussed studies in "progress of the effects of personality attributes, social histories, work roles, leadership and physical environment upon emotional, work and social adjustment" of personnel wintering at the four U.S. Antarctic stations.¹⁶ In 1978, Capt. Nelson was the second psychologist to become Chief of the Medical Service Corps.

1963--Navy sponsors behavioral study of first American team to climb Mt. Everest. The team includes 19 climbers including novelist James Ramsey Ullman.¹⁷

1964--National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, Md. becomes the first accredited psychology internship program in the Navy.

April 1966--Ens. Gale A. Gordon, an aviation experimental psychologist, becomes the first woman to complete the aerospace experimental psychology training program at the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute.

1967--Authorization of breast insignia for aviation experimental psychologists.

¹⁴ Gannon, John. *A History of the Medical Service Corps of the U.S. Navy*. (Unpublished). August 30, 1979.

¹⁵ Imus, Henry. "Psychologic Factors in Space Travel." *U.S. Navy Medical News Letter*. 23 June 1961. Vol. 37, No. 12.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ *U.S. Navy Medical News Letter*, January 1963, Volume 41, No. 2. p21.

1968--Publication of DSM II

1968--Introduction of the first Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Test for selection and classification within service.¹⁸

January 1969--Navy Medical Neuropsychiatric Research Unit conducts psychological evaluations on 81 crewmembers of USS *Pueblo*. Crewmembers were held as prisoners of war in North Korea from January 23 to December 23, 1968.

1971--Establishment of first Navy Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Centers.

February 1972--As part of Operation Egress Recap, Navy medical personnel based in San Diego help transition POWs from Asian Theater back home. First stage of airlift of 143 American POWs takes place in February.

July 1972--Center for POW Studies established at the Navy Medical Neuropsychiatric Research Unit (later Naval Health Research Center) in Point Loma. The Center's mission is to collect data from Army, Navy and Marine POWs and develop comprehensive health plan for repatriated personnel and their families.

July 1973--Navy Hospital San Diego hires eight civilian social workers (the first social workers in the Navy since World War I) to help coordinate readjustment of prisoners of war and their families.¹⁹

1974--Navy Medical Neuropsychiatric Research Unit is redesignated the "Naval Health Research Center" (NHRC)

1976--Psychiatrists at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Va., establish the Special Psychiatric Rapid Intervention Team (SPRINT) program.

1977--NHRC follow-up survey of the crew of USS *Pueblo*.

1978--First Family Advocacy Instruction created to outline the processes in conducting evaluations and treatment for child/spouse abuse/neglect. Instruction was authorized by Capt. Robert McCullah, who later became the first Social Worker Specialty Leader in 1979. He was the Clinical Psychology Specialty Leader that same year.

1 June 1978--Capt. Paul D. Nelson, a Navy psychologist, becomes the seventh Chief of the Medical Service Corps.

1978-1979--Clinical Psychologists increase from 53 to 98 with all filled by 1979 (Under SL Capt. McCullah).

¹⁸ "History of Military Testing." (<http://officialasvab.com>)

¹⁹ Nelson, Harry. "Navy Sees No Problems Yet: Ex-POWs Get Social Workers." *The Los Angeles Times*; Jul 28, 1973; p.OC14.

1979-- Social work is authorized as a Medical Service Corps specialty.

1979--Program Authorization for Clinical Psychologists is changed to require a Ph.D. or Psy.D. from a graduate program accredited by the American Psychological Association.

1980--Publication of DSM III. Popularization of term “Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder” or PTSD.

Early 1980s--The U.S. Navy establishes a “return and reunion” policy placing specialists aboard homeward bound ships to prepare Sailors on the reception they might face.²⁰

1985--Navy inaugurates fitness program aboard USS *New Jersey* to reduce “combat stress.”

1985--DOD Directive 6015.6 issued. Instruction mandates licensure for all clinical psychologists in the military.²¹

July 1987--Navy psychologist billet is established at the Marine Security Battalion in Quantico, Va. Lt. Cmdr. Forrest Sherman would serve as the battalion first Navy psychologist. The post was occupied previously by Marine infantry officer (Col. Pete Finley) with a degree in psychology.

1988--Ralph Burr and Lawrence Palinkas of NHRC research comparative mental disorders of Sailors serving in submarines versus surface ships and find submarines suffer significantly lower hospitalization rates for disorders than their surface ship counterparts. Burr and Palinkas asserted that “tighter psychological and medical screening procedures and higher levels of education among submarine personnel” may have accounted for the differences.²²

1989--Department of Veterans Affairs establishes a National Center for PTSD

1990--The term “Occupational Health Psychology” is first coined.

1990--Publication of Frederick McGuire's *Psychology Aweigh! A History of Clinical Psychology in the United States Navy, 1900-1988*.

August 1990-- Clinical psychologists are assigned to Marine Corps units afloat and ashore as well as to the Fleet Hospital and hospital ships USNS *Comfort* (T-AH-20) and USNS

²⁰ Nordheimer, Jon. “Pentagon is Trying Harder to Ease Combat Stress of Returning Troops.” *The New York Times*; Apr. 1, p10.

²¹ Mullins, Frank. “Recent Advances in Navy Clinical Psychology.” *Navy Medicine Magazine*. September-October 1992. pp 10-12

²² “Submarine Duty No Hazard to Mental Health, Study Shows.” *The Washington Post*; Aug 14, 1988; pA9

Mercy (T-AH-19). During Operations Desert Shield/Storm, twenty percent of active duty clinical psychologists serve in theater.²³

1991--Tri-service Psychopharmacology Demonstration Project is initiated.

1991--Capt. Larry Dean, MSC, USN becomes Research Psychology Specialty Leader.

November 1991--Naval Hospitals Portsmouth, Va. and San Diego, Calif. graduate their first class of psychology interns.

1994--Publication of DSM IV.

1991--Capt. Robert Carter, MSC, USN becomes Research Psychology Specialty Leader.

1996-1997--Implementation of first computer-adaptive ASVAB test throughout the Department of Defense.²⁴

1996--Cmdr. Timothy Steele, MSC, USN becomes Research Psychology Specialty Leader.

October 1996--Lt. Helen Napier reports aboard USS *Kitty Hawk* (CVN-63) as the first psychologist to serve on a combatant ship.²⁵

1997--Beginning of Marine Corps Suicide Awareness Programs.

1998--Navy initiates five-year "Psychologist-at-Sea Demonstration Project" and psychologists were assigned to carriers, becoming part of a ship's company.

1998--Psychologist Lt. (later Capt.) Scott Johnston reports aboard USS *Constellation* (CV-64) for six months.²⁶

1998--Psychologist Lt. (later Capt.) Anthony Arita becomes the first psychologist aboard USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN-70)

1999--Psychologist Lt. (later Capt.) Margaret Lluy becomes the first psychologist to serve aboard USS *Eisenhower* (CVN-69).

1999--Psychologist Lt. (later Capt.) John Ralph becomes the first psychologist to serve aboard USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67)

1999--Capt. Stephen Ahlers, MSC, USN becomes Research Psychology Specialty Leader.

²³ Kennedy, Carrie and Jeffrey McNeil. "History of Military Psychology."

²⁴ "History of Military Testing." (<http://officialasvab.com>)

²⁵ Clapp, John. "Psychologists Aweigh: A History of the First Carrier Psychologists." *The Grog Ration*. Volume 5, No. 5, September-October 2010. pp3-6.

²⁶ Clapp. pp3-6

1999--NHRC explores use of psychotherapy and exercise to relieve symptoms of Gulf War Illnesses.

2000--Beginning of the Operational Stress Control and Readiness Program (OSCAR). Program is first implemented in the 2nd Marine Division based in Camp Lejeune, N.C.

August 2001--Twelve Navy psychologists were serving on carriers – one on each of the twelve carriers in service at that time..

September 2001--USNS *Comfort*'s personnel provide 500 mental health consultations to relief workers in New York City in wake of the September 11th tragedy.

2002--The Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) detention facility is established.

2003--OSCAR Program expands into the 1st and 3rd Marine Division.

2003--Capt. David Neri, MSC, USN becomes Research Psychology Specialty Leader.

2004--Cmdr. (later Capt.) Richard Bergthold deploys to Iraq for a year deployment aboard the *USS Belleau Wood* with the 11th MEU as part of Expeditionary Strike Group Three. As the only mental health provider for 6,500 Marines, he split his time between the *Belleau Wood* and the Marines ashore.²⁷

2005--Office of Naval Research starts program to develop Virtual Reality (VR) for the treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in service personnel returning from OEF/OIF. Many military medical facilities soon adapt the VR technology for clinical use.²⁸

2006--Publication of *Military Psychology: Clinical and Operational Applications*. Book is co-edited by Navy psychologist Lt. Cdr. (later Cmdr.) Carrie Kennedy.

28 August 2006--Adm. Michael Mullen, Chief of Naval Operations Memorandum (CNO), directs the development and implementation of a plan to address mental health and PTSD for personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, and identifies nine tasks.

2007--Publication of *Rule Number Two: Lessons I Learned in a Combat Hospital* by former Navy psychologist Dr. Heidi Kraft.

2007--Cmdr. Mark Bourne, MSC, USN becomes Research Psychology Specialty Leader.

March 2007--First issue of *The Navy Psychologist*, a newsletter for the Navy clinical psychology community.

²⁷ Ginn, Richard. Oral History Interview with Capt. Richard Bergthold, 25 July 2011. BUMED Archives

²⁸ Johnston, Scott. Innovation Station. *The Navy Psychologist*. Winter 2010. Volume 3, Issue 1.

September 2007--Development of the Combat and Operational Stress Continuum (color-coded) model.

November 2007--Establishment of the Defense Center for Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE)

2008--Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. is selected for pilot program to study coping with combat and deployment stress. The "DE-Stress Study Program," originally designed by RTI International for individuals suffering from emotional problems in the wake of September 11th tragedy, tested the effects of "stress levels against recovery time after deployment."²⁹

2008--BUMED establishes the Naval Center for Combat & Operational Stress Control (NCCOSC). Capt. Paul Hammer, MC, USN, and Cdr. (later Capt.) Scott Johnston serves as the command's first Director and Deputy Director, respectively.

2008--Development of Navy Mobile Care Mental Health Surveillance Teams (Capt. Robert Koffman, MC, USN/Rear Adm. Karen Flaherty, NC, USN).

January 2009--Department of Defense (DOD) decides it will not award Purple Hearts to service personnel suffering from PTSD.³⁰

February 2009--The Bagram Freedom Restoration Center opens becoming the first mental health clinic in Afghanistan.³¹

2009--Behavioral Health Specialists are embedded in OSCAR teams.

2009--NHRC develops the Behavior Health Needs Assessment Survey (BHNAS) for MCT deployment.

2009--Publications on the topic of "Detention Psychology."³²

May 2009--Navy social worker Cmdr. Charles Springle is one of five individuals killed at the Combat Stress Control Center at Camp Liberty, Baghdad, Iraq by a soldier suffering from PTSD.

²⁹ Blaich, Ryan. 9/11 Stress Program Now Offered to Lejeune's Warriors. U.S. DODI. Mar 12, 2008.

³⁰ McMichael, William. "Pentagon: No Purple Heart for PTSD Disorder doesn't meet criteria spokeswoman says." *Air Force Times*; Jan 19, 2009; pg 21

³¹ Shiloff, Boris. Military Opens Mental Health Clinic for Troops in Afghanistan. U.S. Fed News Service, Feb 24, 1009.

³² Carrie H. Kennedy, Rosemary C. Malone, and Michael J. Frank, "Provision of Mental Health Services at the Detention Hospital in Guantanamo Bay, *Psychological Services*, 2009, Volume 6, No. 1, pp. 1-10./ Kennedy, C. H., & Johnson, W. B. (2009). Mixed agency in military psychology: Applying the American Psychological Association's Ethics Code. *Psychological Services*, Volume. 6, 22-31.

August–November 2009--Guards at the Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) detention facility are surveyed to better understand the relationship between psychological health and occupational stress among guards.³³

December 2009--MCT 1 deploys to Afghanistan (OIC: Capt. Robert Koffman, MC, USN)

2010--Publication of *Military Neuropsychology*. Book is co-edited by Navy psychologist Lcdr. (later Cmdr.) Carrie Kennedy.

2010--Cmdr. David McKay, MSC, USN becomes Research Psychology Specialty Leader.

2010--Department of Veterans Affairs eases rules on veterans seeking disability benefits for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Under the new rules, veterans of all wars are granted compensation if they can show that they served in a war zone and in a “job consistent with the events that caused their condition.”³⁴

April 2010--NHRC publishes *The Docs*, a graphic novel about four Hospital Corpsmen contending with psychological stress in Operation Iraqi Freedom and post-deployment.

June 2010--MCT 2 deploys to Afghanistan (OIC: Lt. Cmdr. Paco Santiago, MC, USN).

October 2010--Navy Special Warfare Command begins a yearlong computerized test (impact Application) to serve as tool in understanding mild brain injuries.³⁵

August 2010--The Concussion Restoration Care Center is established at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan for assessing, treating and healing concussive injuries employing a holistic approach through “more holistic approach.” Cmdr. Keith Stuessi would serve as the center first Officer-in-Charge.

December 2010--MCT 3 deploys to Afghanistan (OIC: Cmdr. Joseph Sarachene, MC, USN)

20 December 2010--The Marine Corps and Navy establish maritime doctrine for combat and operational stress control. (MCRP 11-C/NTTP 1-15M, 20 December 2010).

2011—Under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Kupke, (Clinical Psychology Training Director), NMC Portsmouth’s Psychology Internship and Post-doctorate Fellow Programs receive a

³³ Johnston, Scott et al. “Operational Stress in Detainee Operations at Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.” *The Navy Psychologist*. March 2012. Volume 4, Issue 1. Pages 3 and 7.

³⁴ James, Dao. “V.A. is Easing Rules to Cover Stress Disorder: Could Affect Veterans from Three Wars.” *The New York Times*; Jul 8, 2010; p A1.

³⁵ Fuentes, Gidget. “New brain-injury test may help diagnose, treat wounded SEALs.” *The Navy Times*. Oct 4, 2010.

seven-year (maximum allowable) accreditation by the American Psychological Association.³⁶

June 2011--MCT 4 deploys to Afghanistan (OIC: Cmdr. Alan Nordholm, MSC, USN).

24 August 2011--Former Navy psychologist Dr. Heidi Kraft receives the Voice Award at Paramount Studies for her efforts in "building awareness about the impact of trauma on service members and their families."³⁷

December 2011—MCT 5 deploys to Afghanistan (OIC: Cmdr. Barry Adams, MSC, USN).

March 2012--188 Navy psychology billets.³⁸

June 2012—MCT 6 deploys to Afghanistan (OIC: Cmdr. Delthenia Mahone, NC, USN).

October 2012--194 Navy psychology billets.³⁹

December 2012—MCT 7 deploys to Afghanistan. (OIC: Cmdr. Jean Fisak, NC, USN).

2013--Publication of DSM V.

March 2013--Cmdr. Katie Shobe, MSC, USN becomes Research Psychology Specialty Leader.

June 2013—MCT 8 (last Mobile Care Team) deploys to Afghanistan (OIC: Cmdr. Stephen Bromberek, MSC, USN)

13 September 2013--Special Psychiatric Rapid Intervention Team (SPRINT) is mobilized to respond to the mass shooting at the Washington Navy Yard.

³⁶ St. John, Elizabeth. "NMCP Becomes Premier Psychology Training Site After Garnering Rare Accreditation." U.S. DODI; Dec 12, 2011.

³⁷ Entertainment Industry Honors Navy Psychologist for Excellence in Combat Operational Stress Control. U.S. DODI. August 25, 2011.

³⁸ Ralph, John. "Message from the Specialty Leader." *The Navy Psychologist*. Volume 4, Issue 1. March 2012. pp1.

³⁹ Ibid